

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
CENTER FOR LOWELL HISTORY
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

**SHIFTING GEARS PROJECT
NORTH ADAMS**

**INFORMANT: KELLY J. MCGRATH
INTERVIEWER: EMILY SMACHETTI
DATE: APRIL 3, 1989**

**E = EMILY
K = KELLY**

SG-NA-T034

This is Emily Smachetti and I will be interviewing Kelly McGrath on her feelings towards North Adams.

E: Where were your parents born and raised?

K: Well my father was born in New Britain, Connecticut, I think it was 1944. And my mom was born in North Adams in 1946. Or maybe she was born in '44 and my Dad in '45.

E: And do their parents still live where they were born? Do your father's parents still live in Connecticut and do your mother's parents still live in North Adams?

K: My father's parents are dead, so I don't [giggles] (--) My mother's parents still live in North Adams.

E: Um, where do they work, and do you think that your parents are going to stay here in North Adams for the rest of their lives?

K: My parents will probably stay in North Adams for the rest of their lives. You mean my grandparents [unclear]?

E: No, where your parents work, or where you both work, that's fine.

K: My Dad works at the Hoyt School as a gym teacher, and my mom is a secretary in Adams.

E: Do you know where your grandparents were born and raised?

K: My grandfather on my mom's side was born in Williamstown. And my grandmother was

born in North Adams. And we won't talk about [E: the other ones] the other ones, because I don't know much about them.

E: Yeah. Um, so they've been here for a lot, like they've been around the area forever.

K: Yeah, they've been here forever.

E: Um, do you know where they work? Or do they still work?

K: My grandfather is retired and he used to work for the Post Office. And my grandmother works in the City Clerk's Office in Williamstown.

E: She still works? [K: Yes] Um, do you remember anything about your great grandparents?

K: No. I don't even think my mom does.

E: Okay. Um, would you consider your family to be centered in North Adams or somewhere else? Like do you have a lot cousins and relatives that live around here, or would you say like for holidays that you would tend to go somewhere else?

K: Well not really. It's just my family was here and then my grandparents. And my mother's other brothers and sisters, one lives in Boston, one lives, or two live in Vermont. One up by Burlington and one by Bennington. And my Dad's family still lives in Connecticut. So we're basically scattered around.

E: So North Adams isn't central. [K: No] Um, you were born in North Adams? [K: Yes] And you went to North Adams public schools for you whole life? [K: Yup] How do you, how, what (--) How do you feel about the public schools in North Adams? I mean anything from sports to academic, to teaching quality, programs, anything.

K: Teaching quality I think is good depending on the teachers you get. But there's like, like the sports programs, we don't have a lot of little feeder programs to help develop kids. And then we don't have that much money coming into the school system, because we're the lowest [per capita?] in the state.

E: Do you think that would make a big difference if we had significantly more money?

K: Yes, I think it would make a difference. Not a lot, but like in, like colleges, like if they happen to see that Drury was, we're in the little lower [unclear], they think, oh well, she couldn't have gotten a very good education. So maybe they didn't think as highly of it as they would for Williamstown. But I think they should put more money in sports [unclear] and education.

E: Did you see any differences between the quality in high school and the quality in like middle school? Or did you see that they're all the same?

K: I think it was different. Like high school they respect you more, and it's not like you have to

do your work. You know, nobody is going to check it for you. But other than that I can't really remember that much about middle school.

E: Um, what work experience have you had in North Adams, or around in the area?

K: Well I'm a waitress at [Comic?] Restaurant.

E: Do you like it?

K: Yeah! I meet a lot of new people, and they're really nice. And I enjoy you know, waiting on hand and foot. [Both laugh]

E: Um, so you think that that's like a pretty good job?

K: Yes. I'm getting good money for it.

E: Would you say that it's a better job than most people on an average have, and did you have a really hard time getting it?

K: Well on average do you mean high school students, or ?

E: Right, high school.

K: Yeah. I think waitressing is probably one of the better jobs you can get depending you know, on your personality, if you like it. Construction would be good too, but I couldn't to construction. [Giggles]

E: That's right. Um, has your job affected how you feel about North Adams if your job isn't in North Adams?

K: I don't know. My job is in Williamstown, but it doesn't really affect me that much. I work with kids from Greylock and they you know, kid about North Adams all the time. But you know, I know they're just kidding. So sometimes it doesn't bother me. But if you know, they tell me about their friends who are really serious when they say certain things about North Adams, it makes me mad. Even though I can dump on North Adams all I want.

E: Yeah. And their attitude about North Adams is basically negative.

K: Yeah.

E: Um, anything in particular that they, that if they think about it that they don't like about, or is it just a general?

K: You know, it's just in general. You know, like the school and the kids, and how we dress and how we act [unclear]. [Both Laugh] Everything.

E: Do you think that there are job opportunities (--) How do you think the job opportunities for teenagers in North Adams compare with job opportunities for you know, your friends who live elsewhere, or anyone.

K: They're probably about the same I would think. I don't know that much about you know, out of state jobs, but there's always jobs out there. They're always looking for help. It's just you have to go out and find it and like what you're doing [unclear].

E: Um, [K: okay]. Are you planning to attend college?

K: Yes I am. I'm going to Providence College [unclear].

E: Um, now why did you pick Providence?

K: I don't know. It's a nice school. It's fairly small and it's you know, far enough away from North Adams where I'm away, but I can come home if I need to. It's only a three hour ride.

E: So it was a conscious choice to get away from North Adams?

K: Yeah, definitely. I don't know. I just wanted to get out of the area. You know, experience new things and see different places.

E: Do you think that the choice to move away from North Adams is primarily because of the town itself, or because of just personal reasons, because you feel like you need to you know, get away from your family and you know, be yourself?

K: I think it's a little of both. Because you know, I guess like the kids at State College, if they happen to see you know, North Adams kids using their library (--) I know two friends of mine who were there the other night and they were saying they felt like they were being looked at and called "townies", and all that. And I don't know, I just, there's not a lot to do here anyways. So it would be nice to get away. And plus it will be good to get away from my family and learn to live on my own, experience different things.

E: Do you know what you want to do in college? Like majors, or anything like that?

K: Right now I'm math and computer science. But I might change it to [unclear]. I don't know.

E: And do you have any future career plans that would include North Adams?

K: Definitely not. I'm not [coming back here?]. So if it's a really promising community (--)

E: Okay. If you could pick an ideal community um, anywhere, what kind of town would you like to live in that you know, wasn't North Adams? Assuming that it wouldn't be North Adams. And what would (--) Like in your ideal town what would, what would it be like and what would it have to offer that North Adams didn't?

K: I guess it would be you know, a fairly well-off community with really good schools. You know, they have a lot of money going into it. And the good teachers. And a lot of sports programs for kids. You know, and just a lot of different opportunities for you know, children to develop. You know, something where a business you know, would benefit from, you know, in the area so I could start all over.

E: How do you (--) What do you think about downtown North Adams? Do you think it's really lacking, or do you think it has enough businesses?

K: Especially with the mall coming in I think that the mall is taking away a lot of business that North Adams downtown used to get. And some of the stores have already moved out, like [England's], I don't know how the rest of them are going to do? I don't really see that many people you know, shopping there. People always want to go to the mall.

E: Do you think [unclear]?

K: Well do you think that they go to the mall, because obviously it's just easier to get a lot of things at the mall than downtown North Adams.

E: Um, how far do you plan to pursue your education?

K: I plan on finishing the four years of college. And then from there, depending on what my major was, you know if I have to go to school some more I will, and if not [unclear] get a job.

E: Do you know where you want to work? [K: No] Do you have any idea? Would you prefer (--)

K: I used to think a city, or not a big city like New York, but maybe a suburb of Boston, something. And I don't want to live in a hick town like North Adams either.

E: What do you mean a hick town?

K: I can remember I went down to Providence and I had to get my dorm changed. So the girl in the residence office was looking through the little things, then she came to mine. She says, "oh, you're from North Adams." She said, "I have some friends who go to North Adams State." I'm like, "oh yeah!" She's like, "pretty hick town up there isn't it?" I was like, oh my god! I couldn't believe you know, that was the first thing she associated with North Adams. You know, it's just, there's nothing really to (--) Even the kids from Pittsfield that come up and play [unclear] sports, they're always like, this is a hick town. There's just nothing to do.

E: Do you think that like the entertainment opportunities are just lacking?

K: Yeah. I don't know, it looks like a hick town too kind of. You know, there aren't a lot of big buildings. You know, the tallest ones are what, the high rises at the college, or the towers [unclear].

E: Um, you've already said that you plan on working probably after you get out of college. Do you plan on having a family also?

K: Yes I do. I want two kids maybe, a boy and a girl. [Both giggle]

E: And now how do you plan on dealing with that? The pressures of you know, being a mother and working. And do you plan on using Day Care, or do you plan on staying home, or?

K: Well the ideal situation for me would be to have a job that I can work out of my house and take care of the kids on my own. But I know that's kind of idealistic in this day. So I would like to have a day care at the places where I work so that I can go to visit the kids you know, during the lunch hour or something. I know my aunt, she works up at Mount Anthony and they have a day care center right there. So if there's any problems with the kids they just call her and she can go right over, or she can stop by on her lunch hour, you know. And I guess they're really good to the kids. And I think North Adams, they should have more day care centers. Like at the high school I think they should have one if enough teachers want to use one.

E: You think that there would be a need?

K: Or there should be like a central one for all of public schools.

E: Do you think that the day care should be checked by the state? Like do you think there should be some regulations for it to make sure that it's up to standards?

K: Yeah. They shouldn't hire just anybody off the street too, because there was so much going on with you know, abused children and the molesting of children in day cares. They've got to be able to regulate it in some ways so that the kids can get the best care.

E: Um, do you approve of, do you think that federal money should be appointed to help get more day care, because it's really expensive for the businesses. Obviously for a school to get a day care they have to rely on state money. Do you think that that is money well spent?

K: Yeah. I think that you know, because people, they want to work. And if people work it's going to benefit the community you know, too. It's not just going to benefit them. And they need somebody to help take care of the child while they can work. So I think it would be better for children if the state or federal wants to help out.

E: Um, do you plan on going back to work right away?

K: I'd like to take a year off or so to watch the baby grow.

E: Um, would you want these children of yours to grow up in a town that was similar, or was North Adams?

K: No. I was talking about that with my dad when I received one of my rejection letters. And I was so upset you know. I was like I'm never bringing my children back to North Adams. He

said, you know there's nothing that he could do about you know, moving now or anything, because they're established here, but you know, he understands that I would never come back here. Because I just don't want my kids to grow up here and like attend Drury where you know, we're the lowest per capita per student in this state. You know that's just you know, unbelievable. Whereas Williamstown right next door, isn't it one of the highest? [E: Yeah] You know it has so much money going into it. And it's just, they're aren't enough programs for the, for kids. There aren't enough different things to do, you know? If you want to do something you have to go out and pay you know, six bucks for a movie. And you know, by the time you take a family you know, you're running twenty bucks just to do something. There aren't any like little recreational centers where kids can just go and hang around. Even the "Y" you have to pay for a membership so you can go to play basketball.

E: Um, so you, you defin (-- Do you think that the people who live in North Adams weren't part of your opinion? Like would you object to your children being with some of the other kids that they might encounter in North Adams?

K: It's not really the other people, or children. It's just the different things that we have in the community to do. There are not enough. And they're not programs that are well developed either.

E: If you could name one thing about North Adams that has benefited you the most, what would it be?

K: Probably the people that I've met and come in contact with. You know everybody is you know, really nice and caring, the majority of the people I should say. It's just me living here you know, [unclear].

E: Um, what have been the least rewarding things about living here?

K: Um, probably like the school system not having a lot of money going to it. And then not enough programs, like little feeder programs for sports. You know, they're out there. Like Williamstown has them. And I know our sub was saying in english how they have kids [few words unclear] just when they can walk outside kicking the soccer ball, you know. That's you know, sports isn't like the big thing, but there aren't a lot of little things. I know we have what, girl scouts and boys scouts probably.

E: Do you feel that living in North Adams has really like significantly harmed your chances at certain, you know, like college admission, or um, just in general. You know, like living in North Adams has really just been a problem as far as other people think, or as far as anything to do with the community. I mean do you think that you don't get as much attention as some of the other students?

K: It's not really that. I think they probably like frown upon Drury if they know you know, that it's the lowest per capita in this state. But I don't think it's that discriminatory. You know, because you get out of it what you put into it. You know, no matter where you go, or what you're doing.

E: Obviously North Adams is a town where there is widespread use of welfare type programs. Food stamps, WIC, things like that. What has been your contact with that and how do you feel about it? Do you think that it's positive, or negative, or(--)

K: Well I've never come into direct contact with any of the programs. I know a lot of kids you know, take advantage of it and use it you know, to benefit them. And it comes in handy like you know, with the school lunch programs. You know, and if they can't afford you know, food and stuff. But I think a lot of people abuse it too. You know some people take the food stamps and buy alcohol and cigarettes. And you know, social security, unemployment, people are just (--). Well unemployment people like might think you know, oh, I won't have to work and I'll make just as much money collecting social security, or unemployment. So why should I even bother to work. You know, which isn't right, you know. If you can go out and get a job, you should be out working, not sitting at home collecting money that can be used for other things, or you know, for other people that could use it even more.

And social security, I think that's a good program, because you know, it allows you like when you're retired to you know, have money you know, there, that you've earned over the years working yourself, but has been put away, or [few words unclear].

E: Um, so you think that the school lunch program is positive.

K: Yeah.

K: I think it is.

E: Um, has living in North Adams affected your views on these social, on any social, particular social and moral issues? Um, abortion can be the first one.

K: I don't know if it's really North Adams that affects my views. I think it's more or less the way I was brought up. You know, and how my parents taught me different you know, values of what to believe. Like I mean I'm against abortion, but you know, North Adams has what, the highest pregnancy rate in this state [unclear]. So it's probably, a lot of kids are for abortion, and now in particular with a community that has the highest rate, you know, abortion will probably be favorable for most people. But I just, I don't agree with it. I don't think it's North Adams that sets my views.

E: You don't agree with it on moral grounds, because you think that it's killing. Um, okay. Do you have any feelings about euthanasia, and are they tied to North Adams?

K: They're not really tied to North Adams. You know, again, it's my own moral issues. But you know, it's kind of contradictory to my abortion view, because I think if somebody who is hooked up to a machine and has like not a very good chance of living a normal life after, you know, why should they continue to be hooked up to a machine which is costing a person you know, money every day. Not that money is a big issue, but you know, if that's what people want to do you know, that person belongs to them. Well not only belongs to them, but you know, if it's like their

wife or somebody, you know, [unclear] parents decide you know, that's what they want. They just have the right to decide that I think.

E: Um, would you say that there's a drug problem in North Adams?

K: Yeah.

E: In the high school, or on (--) What are your feelings about it?

K: I don't know, in the high school I think it's a big problem. You know, I mean I saw a deal once, like two lockers down from me and it just astonished me to see that. I couldn't believe it. And I know, you know, somebody didn't go out for baseball because they wanted to party this year. And you know, if my father had talked with them about it, and I guess like he's talked to with other kids who used to be his friends too, and like they say how oh, he's really different. You know, he doesn't hang around with the same friends. I just think there's a lot of drugs going around at the high school. I think if you ask anybody in the hall and they'd probably tell you where to get it if they don't have it on them.

E: Right. If you, do you think that if you ever needed anything [K: oh yeah] that it would be so easy to get it?

K: It would probably be easier than buying alcohol you know, because for alcohol you have to go to a store to buy it. [Unclear] can go in the high school and buy it right out of a locker probably, you know.

E: Um, do you know a lot of people well who use drugs?

K: I don't really know them well. I know a lot of people who use them, whether it's occasionally, or you know, it might be like monthly or some people like you know, probably three or four times a week. Like I don't know, I think the community [unclear], I don't know that much about it, because you know, you probably don't see you know, the business who are using it if they are. But I can remember once, I don't know how old I was, I think I was in high school. I was walking up Main Street and some guy was standing by the telephone. And he said, "do you know where I could buy some weed?" And I went, "no." And I just kept walking. I was with another friend. I can't remember who it was, but I couldn't believe that [E: I know, right in downtown] you know, I mean here we are, two little girls you know, walking up the street. Yeah, we're really going to know where to buy it.

E: [laughing] We have some.

K: Oh my God!

E: Do you think that the drug problem in the high school is not paying enough attention to? Do you think it's sort of like people don't really think that there's a problem, but there is?

K: Yeah, I think earlier in the year people didn't think there was a problem, but now? Like my

dad is really concerned about it. You know, every day he'll find out somebody new who sells it, or buys it. You know, and he's just, you know, he wants [unclear] like stop it, because he knows what's going on. And he's brought it to the attention of the administration. And I don't know, I think they're trying to do something about it now. They just don't really know how to go about doing it. They don't want New York to happen like what, kids lockers were searched and stuff once. And they just found papers for it. But still, you know, something like that just to scare the kids. And that's like having it in school. I mean I know you can you know, sell it out of school too, but it's just easier in school, because you know, there's more people around and it will be easier to get it.

E: So you think that the town or the school needs to take more steps in fighting the war on drugs.

K: Umhm. I don't know exactly what they do, but they need to have stricter punishment and they can't be you know, afraid to(--)

E: Are you even aware of the penalties for having drugs?

K: Not at all. I don't(--)

E: You don't, probably get what, detention for one week. [K: unclear] Yeah, it doesn't seem like they're very um, widespread and published, you know.

K: I know the kids go down in the locker room and they smoke it. If my dad ever caught them. You know, of course like as soon as they hear somebody going downstairs, or into the bathroom they throw them you know, right away. And they throw them into the toilet or something, and you can't prove anything you know, after that. You can just say, well you guys were doing this, or you girls are doing that, but you have no proof.

E: Exactly. Um, okay. Are there any other social and moral issues that you think are shaped by North Adams that you can think of?

K: Um, I don't think my views are really you know, affected by North Adams. I think it was just basically the way I was brought up, you know, and the values that my parents taught me.

E: Do you think that your values differ significantly from the value of most of the people that you know at school?

K: Not really. I think we all (--) You know, because we're in this you know, small little community, not really affected by a lot of outside sources. But I think you know, basically a lot of people have the same views. You know, everybody is different, but (--)

E: Okay. Um, do you think that North Adams, that people from North Adams have pride in our community? And is there anything that you're proud of, or particularly not proud of in North Adams?

K: I think there's a lot of people that have you know, pride in the community. You know, like the mayor probably, you know? A lot of things, there have been you know, good things you know, done in North Adams. You know, they're trying to get you know, Mass MoCA to come in, and the [Glen?] Project. You know, with all that coming in, you know hopefully you know, North Adams will take a turn for the better, you know, becoming you know, a better community. I don't know, it's just not a community that I would want to you know, have a family in, because of the you know, the problems I mentioned before.

E: Um, so you don't think that, do you, are you proud of anything in particular in North Adams?

K: I don't know. I guess the people, the different people you know, that I've met you know, and associated with. You know a lot of them are really nice. And you know, I know I'll stay in touch with them you know, after college and you know, through my older years. You know, when we come back for reunions and stuff like that. And it will be nice to come home you know, after I'm gone and have my own family. You know, it will be nice to come home just to see you know, what's going on in good old North Adams and see the people who are still here. And what it looks like.

E: You're assuming you'll probably have a more positive attitude about it when you're really not living here.

K: Yeah. Yeah. I suppose like when I'm away from, out of North Adams at school, it'll probably be great (--)

E: You'll need to come home.

K: You know, just to finally be in like my own home town, you know, where I know everything that goes, well not everything sometimes, but I know where everything is.

E: You know where all the streets are. Do you think that living in North Adams has affected your language, or you speech patterns?

K: It probably has, but I can't, I have nothing to compare it to really? So it's hard to judge that. I mean I suppose I have certain you know, slang words that I use that people in other areas wouldn't you know, like in ways kind of. [E: Yeah] [Unclear] you know, some words here that we say, they'll look at you like, what are you talking about? Or, oh yeah, you're cool. You know, it's just so silly you know, sometimes when they hear the words we say. It probably has affected my (--) You know like, big cities affect you know, kids there.

E: Um, (--) [Tape is turned off-and then turned on again] What do you think about the business future of North Adams?

K: I don't know. I guess if the Mass MoCA comes through and the Glen Project, it will probably become you know, a pretty sound community I would think. You know, because the Inn might be able to stay open for more than a couple of weeks at a time. And you know, the stores I think, they might have to change what they carry, some of them, you know, like different

like T-shirts that say the Berkshires and stuff. Well Heritage Park has all that too. But I think that with that coming in it should be a better community in the future.

E: Do you think that it's going to be primarily a tourist [unclear]?

K: Probably. Yes, like with the Glen people will probably come up for like weekends in the winter, or you know, for vacations to go skiing and stuff. I mean I don't what else is going to be there. I know it's, well, another resort type thing. [E: Hm] But then people, you know a lot of big shots I imagine will come to the Mass MoCA you know, to see all of the you know, paintings and (--)

E: Um, do you think that business (--) If North Adams is going to have a favorable business climate, do you think that more businesses will be drawn here? Like industries like Sprague?

K: I don't know. It's depends you know, how the community you know is affected by the Mass MoCA and the Glen. You know if a lot of people happen to come here or not.

E: Um, what were the recent closings of downtown businesses mean to the future of the city?

K: Well the closing (--)

E: Do you think that they'll have to open? I mean do you think that there will be new businesses?

K: Yeah, I think the new businesses will come in if Mass MoCA and that all come through. You know, they'll be more people coming into the area, so they'll be more consumers you know, for the community and for the products that we happen to offer here.

E: Now tourism can be a big problem for people who already live in the city. You know, people find it annoying and they find it difficult. Do you think that tourism would generally be positive, or negative for the people who live in North Adams?

K: They'd probably be a bit of both I would think. You know I was, right now like I probably won't be here when it happens to all happen, but I would think it would be good, because you know, it would bring other people into the community to see what we have. And it would probably put more pride into our community because you know, a lot of people would be coming into North Adams to see Mass MoCA and the Glen. But I suppose it also might cause you know, having traffic and you know, a lot of tie-ups where it will bother people you know, who are used to the small little communities that's relaxed. [E: Plus set in their ways] Right.

E: Um, do you think Mass MoCA could improve the conditions for the residence for unemployed, or under-employed?

K: Well I don't know. I think Mass MoCA is probably is going to bring, it's going to bring a lot of jobs into the community, but I think the jobs that are probably paid well in that are the higher you know, looked upon jobs. I think they'll bring people in from other areas to fill those. And

then the menial positions they'll be looking for help you know, from probably high school kids you know, and other people who want to work. No, I don't think you know, they probably get paid by the hour type thing. You know they'll have to have more police and more fire and all that. But I don't think it's really going to affect you know, a lot of people in North Adams.

E: Do you think that the Glen would have more of an affect for jobs because it's bigger?

K: Yeah, probably. Because it will be you know, more or less like want managers for hotels, and cleaning people, and people that will run programs and stuff. I guess the Glen will probably be better in the sense for jobs for people in North Adams, or the area.

E: So do you think that the future of North Adams will be oriented towards business in industry, or towards tourism and service?

K: I think it will be towards tourism and service. Although I suppose it could bring in, you know, it's going to bring in a lot of business for the community like and downtown, and the Heritage Park and stuff, but I think it's basically going to be a tourist you know, attraction where people will come up to see, you know, the museum. Or if they want to spend, they would have other sky areas [E: with a shop and near a restaurant, but]. Yeah. Yeah. my feelings with the restaurants you know, we don't have that many good restaurants in North Adams. And a lot of them, like even like where you work at Laveranda, it's kind of out. [E: towards Williamstown] I said we don't really have anything down [E: right, in downtown] in downtown North Adams. It's like Burger King, McDonald's. I think maybe we, maybe they could open up like a nice restaurant where England's used to be. You know, nice little cafe where people from the museum go there, have a bite to eat, a cup of coffee.

E: Um, do you think that people from the Mass MoCA who are employed in the Mass MoCA, do you think that they'll, they'll fit right into North Adams, or do you think that they'll seek other communities like Williamstown for example, to live?

K: If I was coming (--) I mean I imagine they're probably going to be you know, pretty top notch people coming in to help run the museum. And if I was to research you know, the area and the high schools, you know, if I had children, I wouldn't want to you know, move to North Adams. I'd moved to Williamstown, or another [unclear] area, because you could drive to work. You know, I mean Williamstown isn't that far away. And it has, the community is, you know, it's only a town, but it's a really nice little town in it's own sense. You know, I wouldn't my children, if you know, I had to option you know, and they probably have plenty of money when they're coming over here too. So they might as well move to a top notch town I would think. But southerners (--)

But I think if you know, Mass MoCA (--) Like in ten years down the line, after Mass MoCA comes here, if you know, the community might be booming you know, with a lot of things coming in. And maybe you know, our schools will happen to get more money through the state. You know, eventually maybe people you know, will actually move to North Adams. And it could you know, eventually become you know, a more respected, highly looked upon community.

E: Um, in a worse case scenario do you think that these um, projects could hopefully affect people of North Adams. Like do you think the housing cost could rise to such an extent that it would be very difficult for the average person to own a house? Or do you think that the elderly will be pushed out? Um, traffic problems?

K: Um, there's going to be traffic problems. There already are. [E: Yeah] More people will be coming in. The elderly, I don't know if they'll be pushed out. Because they're down by the college. You know, they have their little high rises there. So I think they might you know, be able to stay there and be enough out of the way that they're not really affected. But like with the housing I think like along River Street, you know, that's kind of a lower class area. And it's right across the street almost from where Mass MoCA is going to be.

E: You think that that's going to be more like up scale now?

K: Yeah. They're going to have to change that area, because people aren't going to want to drive through and see that and then you know, go to the museum.

E: Could you picture that? It would be probably, like in Boston they have Quincy Market, and it was in this kind of slummy neighborhood. And all the houses that were there turned into you know, condos and townhouses, and it was so strange.

K: Yeah. I think that's what's going to happen you know, which will be bad for the people who live there, because then they're gong to have to find another house that they can afford. You know, [unclear].

E: Um, okay. Finally. Um, what do you (--) What one event will have had the greatest impact on the city that you can think of?

K: Has, or will?

E: Will, or has? [K: Um?] Did you think that it's going to be the MoCA end of the project?

K: Yeah, probably the Mass MoCA Museum coming into the city will bring, I think it overall will benefit, in the end will benefit the community. You know, because it can't really hurt it. You know, if it's going to hurt certain people you know, in certain aspects of the community like people, the housing, you know, if you can't afford it. But eventually I think you know, you know at least um, put North Adams maybe on the map again as some people say. You know, people will know, "oh, North Adams". You know, I know where that is. That's where Mass MoCA is. And maybe people will think you know, highly of it hopefully. Maybe they'll put some more money into the schools. That would be nice, you know. I don't know, it's not that bad a community. It's a nice little community that, you know, I find that it's a nice little home for me.

end of tape.